

What is claimed is:

1. A visible image forming method for forming a visible image on an optical disk by an optical disk recording apparatus, which is designed for applying a laser beam onto an optical disk according to first recording data of a predetermined format to form pits having lengths specified by the first recording data, the method comprising:

    a generating step for generating second recording data by embedding image formation data of a visible image in a part of a predetermined format which is the same as predetermined for the first recording data;

    an extracting step for extracting the image formation data of the visible image from the second recording data of the predetermined format; and

    a forming step for forming pits in the optical disk according to the extracted image formation data so as to form the visible image on the optical disk.

2. The visible image forming method according to Claim 1, wherein the optical disk has a spiral guiding groove on a recording surface of the optical disk, the spiral guiding groove being divided substantially at an equal interval to define a sequence of regions along the spiral guiding groove, and wherein the image formation data of the visible image specifies the length of the pit to be formed in each region of the spiral guiding groove.

3. The visible image forming method according to Claim 2, further comprising a converting step preceding the generating step for converting original image data representing the visual image by rectangular coordinates into the image formation data specifying the length of the pit to be formed in each region of the spiral guiding groove.

4. The visible image forming method according to Claim 1, wherein the predetermined format has blocks each having a plurality of frames, each frame having a region for containing main data to be recorded, and wherein the generating step embeds the image formation data of the visible image in a part or whole of the region of each frame.

5. A computer program for use with an optical disk recording apparatus which is designed for applying a laser beam onto an optical disk according to first recording data of a predetermined format to form pits having lengths specified by the first recording data, the computer program being executable for causing the optical disk recording apparatus to perform a method of forming a visible image on an optical disk, wherein the method comprising:

a generating step for generating second recording data by embedding image formation data of a visible image in a part of a predetermined format which is the same as predetermined for the first recording data;

an extracting step for extracting the image formation data of the visible image from the second recording data of the predetermined format; and

a forming step for forming pits in the optical disk according to the extracted image formation data so as to form the visible image on the optical disk.

6. A visible image forming system for forming a visible image on an optical disk by an optical pickup, which is designed for applying a laser beam onto an optical disk according to first recording data of a predetermined format to form pits having lengths specified by the first recording data, the system comprising:

a generating section that generates second recording data by embedding image formation data of a visible image in a part of a predetermined format which is the same as predetermined for the first recording data;

an extracting section that extracts the image formation data of the visible image from the second recording data of the predetermined format; and

a forming section that operates the optical pickup for forming pits in the optical disk according to the extracted image formation data so as to form the visible image on the optical disk.